



## The Philadelphia Inquirer

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To the Editor:

I want to applaud Renneth Grey for drawing attention to the negative impact of restrictive prison visiting hours on the children of incarcerated parents and the need to make such visits more accessible ([Hurting Convicts' Children](#), Monday Nov. 16, 2009). But I would also like to clarify one point. Ms. Grey states that the children of incarcerated parents "are more likely to participate in illegal behavior." In fact, this is a misconception. While the incarceration of a parent can have profound consequences for a child—from feelings of grief, shame, and loss to poor school performance—there are no credible studies showing that children with a parent in prison or jail are more likely to commit a crime. And there is good reason to believe that maintaining a relationship with their parent offers children needed assurance and security in difficult times.

For more information on how children are affected by incarceration and what can be done to reduce the burden that children face when a parent goes to prison, please visit the National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated Web site at [fcnetwork.org](http://fcnetwork.org).

Sincerely,

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